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(54) **NEUROTOXINS EXHIBITING SHORTENED BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to the pharmaceutical field. Specifically, it contemplates a polynucleotide encoding a Neurotoxin polypeptide exhibiting a reduced duration of biological effect in a subject, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least one degradation signal in the light chain as well as vectors and host cells comprising the polynucleotide, polypeptides encoded thereby and antibodies specifically binding to the polypeptides. Moreover, the invention relates to medicaments comprising the polynucleotides and polypeptides as well as specific therapeutic applications thereof. Furthermore, the present invention contemplates methods for the manufacture of the polypeptides and medicaments.

3 Claims, No Drawings

NEUROTOXINS EXHIBITING SHORTENED BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

The present invention relates to the pharmaceutical field. Specifically, it contemplates a polynucleotide encoding a Neurotoxin polypeptide exhibiting a reduced duration of the biological effect in a subject, wherein said polypeptide comprises at least one degradation signal in the light chain as well as vectors and host cells comprising the said polynucleotide, polypeptides encoded thereby and antibodies specifically binding to the polypeptides. Moreover, the invention relates to medicaments comprising said polynucleotides and polypeptides as well as specific therapeutic applications thereof. Furthermore, the present invention contemplates methods for the manufacture of the polypeptides and medicaments.

Clostridium botulinum and *Clostridium tetani* produce highly potent neurotoxins, i.e. botulinum toxins (BoNTs) and tetanus toxin (TeNT), respectively. These Clostridial Neurotoxins (CNTs) specifically bind to neuronal cells and disrupt neurotransmitter release. Each toxin is synthesized as an inactive unprocessed approximately 150 kDa single-chain protein. The posttranslational processing involves formation of disulfide bridges, and limited proteolysis (nicking) by the bacterial protease(s). Active Neurotoxin consists of two chains, an N-terminal light chain of approx. 50 kDa and a heavy chain of approx. 100 kDa linked by a disulfide bond. CNTs consist of three domains, i.e. the catalytic light chain, the heavy chain encompassing the translocation domain (N-terminal half) and the receptor binding domain (C-terminal half), see Krieglstein 1990, Eur J Biochem 188, 39; Krieglstein 1991, Eur J Biochem 202, 41; Krieglstein 1994, J Protein Chem 13, 49. The Botulinum Neurotoxins are synthesized as molecular complexes comprising the 150 kDa Neurotoxin protein and associated non-toxic, complexing proteins. The complex sizes differ based on the Clostridial strain and the distinct Neurotoxin serotypes ranging from 300 kDa to 900 kDa. The complexing proteins in these complexes stabilize the Neurotoxin and protect it against degradation, see Chen 1998, Infect Immun 66(6): 2420-2425.

Clostridium botulinum secretes seven antigenically distinct serotypes designated A to G of the botulinum neurotoxin (BoNT). All serotypes together with the related tetanus neurotoxin (TeNT) secreted by *Clostridium tetani*, are Zn²⁺-endoproteases that block synaptic exocytosis by cleaving SNARE proteins, see Couesnon, 2006, Microbiology, 152, 759. CNTs cause the flaccid muscle paralysis seen in botulism, see Fischer 2007, PNAS 104, 10447.

Despite its toxic effects, Botulinum toxins have been used as therapeutic agents for a large number of diseases or disorders. Botulinum toxin serotype A was approved for human use in the United States in 1989 for the treatment of strabism, blepharospasm, and other disorders. It is commercially available as a Botulinum toxin A protein complex, for example, under the tradename BOTOX (Allergan Inc) or under the tradename DYSPORT (Ipsen Ltd). For therapeutic applications, the complex is injected directly into the muscle to be treated. At physiological pH, the toxin is released from the protein complex and the desired pharmacological effect takes place. An improved, complex-free Neurotoxin A polypeptide preparation is available under the tradename XEOMIN (Merz Pharmaceuticals GmbH). The effect of Botulinum toxin is only temporary, which is the reason why repeated administration of Botulinum toxin may be required to maintain a therapeutic effect.

The Clostridial Neurotoxins weaken voluntary muscle strength and are effective therapeutics for strabism, focal

dystonia, including cervical dystonia, and benign essential blepharospasm. They have been further shown to relieve hemifacial spasm, and focal spasticity, and, moreover, to be effective in a wide range of other indications, such as gastrointestinal disorders, hyperhidrosis, and cosmetic wrinkle correction, see Jost 2007, Drugs 67, 669.

However, weakening muscle strengths and contraction is also desirable for medical conditions or disease such as wound healing, immobilisation for bone and tendon fracture treatment, post surgery immobilization, specifically in connection with haemorrhoidectomy, introduction of dental implants, or hip joint replacement (endoprosthesis), knee arthroplasty, ophthalmological surgery, acne, or irritable bowel disease. The Neurotoxins usually exhibit their biological effect over a time period which is longer than actually needed for efficient treatment of said diseases or conditions. A prolonged muscle paralysis is, however, detrimental or at least less preferable in the therapy of the said medical conditions or diseases. Neurotoxins exhibiting their biological effect only over the desired time period are, however, not yet available.

Accordingly, the technical problem underlying the present invention can be seen as the provision of means and methods for complying with the aforementioned needs. The technical problem is solved by the embodiments characterized in the claims and herein below.

The present invention, therefore, relates to a polynucleotide encoding a Neurotoxin polypeptide exhibiting a reduced duration of the biological effect in a subject, wherein said polypeptide comprises at least one degradation signal in the light chain.

The term "polynucleotide" as used herein refers to single- or double-stranded DNA molecules as well as to RNA molecules. Encompassed by the said term is genomic DNA, cDNA, hnRNA, mRNA as well as all naturally occurring or artificially modified derivatives of such molecular species. The polynucleotide may be in an aspect a linear or circular molecule. Moreover, in addition to the nucleic acid sequences encoding the aforementioned Neurotoxin polypeptide, a polynucleotide of the present invention may comprise additional sequences required for proper transcription and/or translation such as 5' or 3' UTR sequences. The polynucleotide of the present invention encodes a modified Neurotoxin polypeptide derivable from one of the antigenically different serotypes of Botulinum Neurotoxins, i.e. BoNT/A, BoNT/B, BoNT/C1, BoNT/D, BoNT/E, BoNT/F, BoNT/G, or Tetanus Neurotoxin (TeNT). In an aspect of the present invention, the said polynucleotide comprises a nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 (BoNT/A), SEQ ID NO: 3 (BoNT/B), SEQ ID NO: 5 (BoNT/C1), SEQ ID NO: 7 (BoNT/D), SEQ ID NO: 9 (BoNT/E), SEQ ID NO: 11 (BoNT/F), SEQ ID NO: 13 (BoNT/G) or SEQ ID NO: 15 (TeNT). Moreover, encompassed is in an aspect a polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence as shown in any one of SEQ ID NO: 2 (BoNT/A), SEQ ID NO: 4 (BoNT/B), SEQ ID NO: 6 (BoNT/C1), SEQ ID NO: 8 (BoNT/D), SEQ ID NO: 10 (BoNT/E), SEQ ID NO: 12 (BoNT/F), SEQ ID NO: 14 (BoNT/G) or SEQ ID NO: 16 (TeNT). In another aspect, the said polynucleotide is a variant of the aforementioned polynucleotides comprising one or more nucleotide substitutions, deletions and/or additions which in still another aspect may result in an encoded amino acid having one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions and/or additions. Moreover, a variant polynucleotide of the invention shall in another aspect comprise a nucleic acid sequence variant being at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at

least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% identical to the nucleic acid sequence as shown in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 or 15 or a nucleic acid sequence variant which encodes an amino acid sequence being at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 75%, at least 80%, at least 85%, at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 98% or at least 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as shown in any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16. The term “identical” as used herein refers to sequence identity characterized by determining the number of identical amino acids between two nucleic acid sequences or amino acid sequences wherein the sequences are aligned so that the highest order match is obtained. It can be calculated using published techniques or methods codified in computer programs such as, for example, BLASTP, BLASTN or FASTA (Altschul 1990, J Mol Biol 215, 403). The percent identity values are, in one aspect, calculated over the entire amino acid sequence. A series of programs based on a variety of algorithms is available to the skilled worker for comparing different sequences. In this context, the algorithms of Needleman and Wunsch or Smith and Waterman give particularly reliable results. To carry out the sequence alignments, the program PileUp (Higgins 1989, CABIOS 5, 151) or the programs Gap and BestFit (Needleman 1970, J Mol Biol 48; 443; Smith 1981, Adv Appl Math 2, 482), which are part of the GCG software packet (Genetics Computer Group 1991, 575 Science Drive, Madison, Wis., USA 53711), may be used. The sequence identity values recited above in percent (%) are to be determined, in another aspect of the invention, using the program GAP over the entire sequence region with the following settings: Gap Weight: 50, Length Weight: 3, Average Match: 10.000 and Average Mismatch: 0.000, which, unless otherwise specified, shall always be used as standard settings for sequence alignments.

In an aspect, each of the aforementioned variant polynucleotides encodes a polypeptide retaining one or more and, in another aspect, all of the biological properties of the respective Neurotoxin polypeptide, i.e. the BoNT/A, BoNT/B, BoNT/C1, BoNT/D, BoNT/E, BoNT/F, BoNT/G or Tetanus Neurotoxin (TeNT). Those of skill in the art will appreciate that full biological activity is maintained only after proteolytic activation, even though it is conceivable that the unprocessed precursor can exert some biological functions or be partially active. “Biological properties” as used herein

refers to (a) receptor binding, (b) internalization, (c) translocation across the endosomal membrane into the cytosol, and/or (d) endoproteolytic cleavage of proteins involved in synaptic vesicle membrane fusion. In vivo assays for assessing biological activity include the mouse LD50 assay and the ex vivo mouse hemidiaphragm assay as described by Pearce et al. (Pearce 1994, Toxicol Appl Pharmacol 128: 69-77) and Dressler et al. (Dressler 2005, Mov Disord 20:1617-1619, Keller 2006, Neuroscience 139: 629-637). The biological activity is commonly expressed in Mouse Units (MU). As used herein, 1 MU is the amount of neurotoxic component, which kills 50% of a specified mouse population after intraperitoneal injection, i.e. the mouse i.p. LD50. In a further aspect, the variant polynucleotides can encode Neurotoxins having improved or altered biological properties, e.g., they may comprise cleavage sites which are improved for enzyme recognition or may

be improved for receptor binding or any other property specified above. Moreover, encompassed are in an aspect fusion polypeptides further comprising detectable marker peptides or tags. In an aspect, suitable tags are FLAG-tags, Myc-tags or His-tags which also allow for a more efficient purification of the tagged polypeptides. Detectable marker peptides, in an aspect, include fluorescent proteins such as GFP, BFP and the like. In yet a further aspect, the variant polynucleotides shall encode fusion Neurotoxin polypeptides comprising a part of at least two Neurotoxin polypeptides of different serotypes, e.g., a fusion Neurotoxin comprising a heavy chain of BoNT/A and a light chain of BoNT/E.

The Neurotoxin polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the invention further comprises at least one degradation signal in its light chain. In an aspect of the invention, the said light chain of the Neurotoxin polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the invention is obtained by modification from a light chain being encoded by a polynucleotide comprising any one of the aforementioned specific nucleic acid sequences or variants thereof described above. The light chains of the Neurotoxin polypeptides are generated by proteolytic cleavage of a precursor polypeptide (single-chain polypeptide). The light chain is the N-terminal portion of the precursor polypeptide which is obtained as a result of the proteolytic cleavage. The amino acid sequences of the light chains of the Neurotoxin polypeptides referred to above can be deduced, in an aspect, from the cleavage sites indicated in the following table.

TABLE 1

Neurotoxin (Bacterial Strain)	Accession number	Cleavage site	Sequence including cleavage sites (highlighted)
BoNT/A (Hall/62A)	ABD 65472	K428/T429 K448/A449	KLLCVRGIITSK TKSLDKGY NKALN...DL CI KV (SEQ ID NO: 17)
BoNT/B (Okra)	BAE 48264	K441/A442	IQM CKSVK APG.....ICIDV (SEQ ID NO: 18)
BoNT/C1 (C-6814)	BAA 89713	R444/5445 K449/T450	TKFCHKAIDGR SL YNK TL.....DCRELLV (SEQ ID NO: 19)
BoNT/D	BAA 90661	K442/N443 R445/D446	TKVCLRLTK..... NSRDDST CI KV (SEQ ID NO: 20)
BoNT/E (Beluga)	CAA 43999	K419/G420 R422/K423	IRFCKNIVSV KG IRKSICIEI (SEQ ID NO: 21)
BoNT/F (NCTC10281)	CAA 73972	R435/K436 K439/A440	VKFCKSVIP RK G..... TKAPPRL CI RV (SEQ ID NO: 22)

TABLE 1-continued

Neurotoxin (Bacterial Strain)	Accession number	Cleavage site	Sequence including cleavage sites (highlighted)
BoNT/G	CAA 52275		IAMCKPVMYKNT.....GKS.....EQCIIIV (SEQ ID NO: 23)
TeNT	P 04958	R449 (R455)	IGLCCKKIIPPTNIRENLYNRTASLTDLGGE L CIKI (SEQ ID NO: 24)

The term “degradation signal” as used herein refers to modifications of the light chain of the Neurotoxin polypeptide which result in increased degradation of the Neurotoxin polypeptide by endogenous degradation pathways present in an organism to which the Neurotoxin has been applied. In an aspect, the degradation pathway will be a proteasomal degradation pathway or a lysosomal degradation pathway. In another aspect, a degradation pathway may merely result in a partial degradation of the Neurotoxin polypeptide, e.g., by one or more proteolytic cleavage steps. The said degradation signal may be introduced into the light chain (i.e. be located (internally) within the light chain) or linked thereto either N- or C-terminally. The person skilled in the art is well aware of suitable degradation signals and how to introduce or link them to the Neurotoxin polypeptide’s light chain. Moreover, the skilled artisan can generate polynucleotides encoding such Neurotoxin polypeptides with the at least one degradation signal by applying recombinant molecular biological techniques or chemical modifications. For example, site directed mutagenesis may be used for introducing the degradation signals referred to below. Alternatively, a nucleic acid sequence for the polynucleotide comprising the coding sequences for the Neurotoxin polypeptide and the envisaged degradation signal may be designed and the entire polynucleotide may subsequently be chemically synthesised.

In an aspect, the said degradation signal is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) at least one internally or terminally introduced PEST motif,
- b) at least one internally or terminally introduced E3 ligase recognition motif,
- c) an N-terminal oligo-lysine residue,
- d) an N-terminally linked ubiquitin,
- e) a substitution of the N-terminal proline with a basic amino acid,
- f) substitutions of surface displayed amino acid residues by lysines, and
- g) a substitution of the N-terminal proline with a basic amino acid in combination with substitutions of surface displayed amino acid residues by lysines.

In an aspect, the E3 ligase recognition motif has a consensus sequence as shown in the following table (wherein “X” may represent any of the naturally occurring amino acids):

TABLE 2

E3 ubiquitin Ligase	Recognition motif (consensus)
VBCCu12	ALAPYIP (SEQ ID NO: 25)
MNM2	RFMDYWEGL (SEQ ID NO: 26) FXXXLWXXL (SEQ ID NO: 27)
Smurf2	ELESPPPPYSRYPM (SEQ ID NO: 28)
RN181	KVGFFKR (SEQ ID No: 29)

TABLE 2-continued

E3 ubiquitin Ligase	Recognition motif (consensus)
E3alpha	LLVRGRTLTV (SEQ ID NO 30)
SCF	DRHDSGLDSM (SEQ ID NO: 31)
Siah	PXAXVXP (SEQ ID NO: 32)
Itch	PPXYXXM (SEQ ID NO: 33)
Nedd4-2	PPXY (SEQ ID No: 34)

PEST motifs are well known in the art as degradation signals (Rogers 1986, Science 234: 364-368, Rechsteiner 1996, TIBS 21: 267-271, Belizario 2008, Science 9: 210-220). In an aspect, the PEST motif is has a sequence as disclosed in Rechsteiner 1996, TIBS 21: 267-271, Table 1 (hereby incorporated by reference), for any one of the following proteins: GCN4, Ik B α , Fos, Ornithine decarboxylase, Cactus, CLN2, CLN 3 or NIMA.

The modified Neurotoxin polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the present invention will exhibit a reduced duration of the biological effect in a subject upon administration in comparison to an unmodified Neurotoxin polypeptide. In an aspect, the said biological effect observed in the subject causes muscle paralysis, i.e. a (reversible) inactivation of the muscle’s capability to contract. In an aspect, the effects can be tested by the so-called mouse running assay (Keller 2006, Neuroscience 139: 629-637). The biological effects can be determined by the person skilled in the art without further ado. A reduced duration of the biological effect, in an aspect, refers to a statistically significant reduced duration. Whether the duration of an effect is statistically significant reduced can be determined by those skilled in the art by applying standard statistical tests, e.g., determination of confidence intervals, p-value determination, Student’s t-test, Mann-Whitney test etc. Preferred confidence intervals are at least 90%, at least 95%, at least 97%, at least 98% or at least 99%. The p-values are, preferably, 0.1, 0.05, 0.01, 0.005, or 0.0001. Preferably, the probability envisaged by the present invention allows that the diagnosis will be correct for at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, or at least 90% of the subjects of a given cohort or population. In an aspect, the said reduced duration persist less than 75%, less than 70%, less than 65%, less than 60%, less than 55%, less than 50%, less than 45%, less than 40%, less than 30% or less than 20% of the normal duration, i.e. the duration observed for an unmodified Neurotoxin polypeptide. In an aspect, normal duration persists for approximately 4 month in the case of BoNT/A, 2 months in the case of BoNT/B, approximately 3 to 4 months in the case of BoNT/C or approximately 4 weeks in the case of BoNT/E (Foran, J Biol. Chem. 278(2): 1363-1371, Eleopra 1998, Neurosci Lett. 13, 256(3): 135-138, Eleopra 1997, Neurosci Lett.

14,224(2): 91-94, Sloop 1997, Neurology 49(1): 189-194, Washbourne 1998, J Physiol Paris 92(2): 135-139). It is to be understood that the duration of the effect depends on individual influences in a subject such as genetic background, age, life style etc. Therefore, an approximate duration as meant herein refers to a duration as indicated above for the respective Neurotoxin polypeptides (e.g., 4 months for BoNT/A or 4 weeks for BoNT/E) with a standard deviation of 25% or less, 20% or less, 15% or less, 10% or less or 5% or less.

Advantageously, it has been found in accordance with the present invention that a Neurotoxin polypeptide can be modified to exhibit a shortened biological effect in a subject upon administration. In principle, this can be achieved by introducing or linking a degradation signal to the light chain of the said Neurotoxin polypeptide since it was found that the persistence of the light chain correlates with the duration of the biological effect. The shortened duration of the biological effect elicited by Neurotoxin polypeptides is beneficial for various medical applications which require an inactivation of nervous actions, e.g., muscle paralysis in order to facilitate wound healing.

The present invention contemplates a vector comprising the polynucleotide of the present invention.

The term "vector", preferably, encompasses phage, plasmid, viral or retroviral vectors as well as artificial chromosomes, such as bacterial or yeast artificial chromosomes. Moreover, the term also relates to targeting constructs which allow for random or site-directed integration of the targeting construct into genomic DNA. Such target constructs, preferably, comprise DNA of sufficient length for either homologous or heterologous recombination as described in detail below. The vector encompassing the polynucleotides of the present invention, in an aspect, further comprises selectable markers for propagation and/or selection in a host. The vector may be incorporated into a host cell by various techniques well known in the art. For example, a plasmid vector can be introduced in a precipitate such as a calcium phosphate precipitate or rubidium chloride precipitate, or in a complex with a charged lipid or in carbon-based clusters, such as fullerenes. Alternatively, a plasmid vector may be introduced by heat shock or electroporation techniques. Should the vector be a virus, it may be packaged in vitro using an appropriate packaging cell line prior to application to host cells. Retroviral vectors may be replication competent or replication defective. In the latter case, viral propagation generally will occur only in complementing host/cells. Moreover, in an aspect of the invention, the polynucleotide is operatively linked to expression control sequences allowing expression in prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cells or isolated fractions thereof in the said vector. Expression of the polynucleotide comprises transcription of the polynucleotide into a translatable mRNA. Regulatory elements ensuring expression in host cells are well known in the art. In an aspect, they comprise regulatory sequences ensuring initiation of transcription and/or poly-A signals ensuring termination of transcription and stabilization of the transcript. Additional regulatory elements may include transcriptional as well as translational enhancers. Possible regulatory elements permitting expression in prokaryotic host cells comprise, e.g., the lac-, trp- or tac-promoter in *E. coli*, and examples for regulatory elements permitting expression in eukaryotic host cells are the AOX1- or the GAL1-promoter in yeast or the CMV-, SV40-, RSV-promoter (Rous sarcoma virus), CMV-enhancer, SV40-enhancer or a globin intron in mammalian and other animal cells. Moreover, inducible expression control sequences may be used in an expression vector encompassed by the present

invention. Such inducible vectors may comprise tet or lac operator sequences or sequences inducible by heat shock or other environmental factors. Suitable expression control sequences are well known in the art. Beside elements which are responsible for the initiation of transcription such regulatory elements may also comprise transcription termination signals, such as the SV40-poly-A site or the tk-poly-A site, downstream of the polynucleotide. In this context, suitable expression vectors are known in the art such as Okayama-Berg cDNA expression vector pcDV1 (Pharmacia), pBlue-script (Stratagene), pCDM8, pRc/CMV, pcDNA1, pcDNA3 (Invitrogen) or pSPORT1 (Invitrogen). Preferably, said vector is an expression vector and a gene transfer or targeting vector. Expression vectors derived from viruses such as retroviruses, vaccinia virus, adeno-associated virus, herpes viruses, or bovine papilloma virus, may be used for delivery of the polynucleotides or vector of the invention into targeted cell population. Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art can be used to construct recombinant viral vectors; see, for example, the techniques described in Sambrook, Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1989) N.Y. and Ausubel, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Green Publishing Associates and Wiley Interscience, N.Y. (1994).

Moreover, the present invention pertains to a host cell comprising the polynucleotide or the vector of the present invention.

The term "host cell" as used herein encompasses prokaryotic and eukaryotic host cells. In an aspect the host cell is a bacterial cell and, in another aspect, a Firmicutes bacterial cell. In one aspect, the said bacterial host cell is an *E. coli* host cell. In another aspect, it is a *Clostridium* host cell. In a further aspect, the said *Clostridium* host cell is a *Clostridium botulinum* host cell, in even a further aspect, a cell of one of the aforementioned seven different serotypes of *Clostridium botulinum*. In yet another aspect, the bacterial host cell is a *Clostridium tetani* host cell. In a further aspect, the host cell is a *Bacillus* host cell and in a particular aspect a *Bacillus megaterium* host cell. A eukaryotic host cell, in an aspect, is a cell of an animal cell line suitable for production of toxic proteins or a fungal host cell such as a yeast host cell.

Also encompassed by the present invention is a polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the invention.

The term "polypeptide" as used herein encompasses isolated or essentially purified polypeptides being essentially free of other polypeptides including the complexing proteins (HA70, HA17, HA33, or NTNH (NBP) of the host cell or polypeptide preparations comprising other proteins in addition. Moreover, the term includes chemically modified polypeptides. Such modifications may be artificial modifications or naturally occurring modifications. As referred to above, the polypeptide of the present invention shall have the biological properties of the Neurotoxin polypeptides referred to above. Moreover, it shall exhibit shortened duration of the biological effect in a subject upon administration. The polypeptide of the invention, in an aspect, can be manufactured by a method of manufacturing a polypeptide as described elsewhere herein in more detail. In an aspect of the invention, a polypeptide preparation is also envisaged which comprises a complex of the Neurotoxin polypeptide and its complexing proteins.

Moreover, the present invention relates to an antibody which specifically binds to the polypeptide of the present invention.

Antibodies against the polypeptide of the invention can be prepared by well known methods using a purified polypeptide according to the invention or a suitable fragment derived

therefrom as an antigen. A fragment which is suitable as an antigen may be identified by antigenicity determining algorithms well known in the art. Such fragments may be obtained either from the polypeptide of the invention by proteolytic digestion or may be a synthetic peptide. In an aspect, the antibody of the present invention is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, a single chain antibody, a human or humanized antibody or primatized, chimerized or fragment thereof. Also comprised as antibodies by the present invention is a bispecific antibody, a synthetic antibody, an antibody fragment, such as a Fab, Fv or scFv fragment etc., or a chemically modified derivative of any of these. The antibody of the present invention shall specifically bind (i.e. does not cross react with other polypeptides or peptides) to the polypeptide of the invention. Specifically, the antibody shall also not cross react with the unmodified Neurotoxin polypeptide. Specific binding can be tested by various well known techniques. Antibodies or fragments thereof can be obtained by using methods which are described, e.g., in Harlow and Lane "Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual", CSH Press, Cold Spring Harbor, 1988. Monoclonal antibodies can be prepared by the techniques originally described by Köhler et al. (Köhler 1975, Nature 256 (1975), 495) or Galfré. (Galfré 1981, Meth. Enzymol. 73 (1981)) which comprise the fusion of mouse myeloma cells to spleen cells derived from mammals which have been immunized by the antigen, i.e. the polypeptide of the invention or a immunogenic fragment thereof. The antibodies can be used, for example, for the immunoprecipitation and immunolocalization of the polypeptides of the invention as well as for the monitoring of the presence of said polypeptides, for example, in recombinant organisms, and for the identification of compounds interacting with the proteins according to the invention. For example, surface plasmon resonance as employed in the BIAcore system can be used to increase the efficiency of phage antibodies which bind to an epitope of the protein of the invention (Schier 1996, Human Antibodies Hybridomas 7, 97-105; Malmberg 1995, J. Immunol. Methods 183, 7-13).

The polynucleotide or polypeptide of the invention can be used as a medicament, in general.

The term "medicament" as used herein refers, in one aspect, to a pharmaceutical composition containing the biologically active Neurotoxin polypeptide or a polynucleotide encoding it as pharmaceutical active compound. The said medicament may be used for human or animal therapy of various diseases or disorders in a therapeutically effective dose. The medicament can be formulated by various techniques dependent on the desired application purposes. Different aspects of a medicament according to the present invention are specified herein below.

In an aspect, the medicament comprises the biologically active Neurotoxin polypeptide of the present invention one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carrier as a pharmaceutical composition. The pharmaceutically acceptable carrier(s) must be acceptable in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and being not deleterious to the recipient thereof. The pharmaceutical carrier employed may include a solid, a gel, or a liquid. Exemplary of solid carriers are lactose, terra alba, sucrose, talc, gelatin, agar, pectin, acacia, magnesium stearate, stearic acid and the like. Exemplary of liquid carriers are glycerol, phosphate buffered saline solution, water, emulsions, various types of wetting agents, and the like. Suitable carriers comprise those mentioned above and others well known in the art, see, e.g., Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pa. It will be understood that a carrier might also be a virus or retrovirus suitable for gene therapy, in

particular, if the active ingredient of the medicament is the polynucleotide of the invention.

The medicament, in an aspect, will be dissolved in a diluent prior to administration. The diluent is also selected so as not to affect the biological activity of the combination. Examples of such diluents are distilled water or physiological saline. In addition, the pharmaceutical composition or formulation may also include other carriers or non-toxic, non-therapeutic, non-immunogenic stabilizers and the like. Thus, the Neurotoxin polypeptide of the invention can be present, in an aspect, in liquid or lyophilized form. In an aspect, it can be present together with glycerol, protein stabilizers (HSA) or non-protein stabilizers such as polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), hyaluronic acid or free amino acids. In an aspect, suitable non-proteinaceous stabilizers are disclosed in WO 2005/007185 or WO 2006/020208.

In another aspect, the medicament will be provided as a solution comprising the Neurotoxin polypeptide. Moreover, the solution can comprise carriers or stabilizers referred to above as well. A stable liquid formulation of the Neurotoxin polypeptide can be provided, in an aspect, as disclosed by U.S. Pat. No. 7,211,261.

The pharmaceutical composition is, in one aspect, administered topically. Conventionally the medicament will be administered intra-muscular or subcutaneous (near glands) depending on the desired medical indication. However, depending on the nature and the mode of action of a compound the pharmaceutical composition may be administered by other routes as well.

A therapeutically effective dose refers to an amount of the Neurotoxin polypeptide or the polynucleotide of the invention which prevents, ameliorates or treats the symptoms accompanying a condition or disease referred to in this specification. Therapeutic efficacy and toxicity of the compound can be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals, e.g., ED50 (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population) and LD50 (the dose lethal to 50% of the population). The dose ratio between therapeutic and toxic effects is the therapeutic index, and it can be expressed as the ratio, LD50/ED50. The medicament of the present invention will comprise, in an aspect, dosage recommendations in the prescribers or users instructions in order to anticipate dosage adjustments depending on the individual recipient.

The medicament referred to herein are developed to be administered at least once in order to treat or ameliorate or prevent a disease or condition recited in this specification. However, the said medicament may be administered more than one time.

The medicament according to the present invention may in a further aspect of the invention comprise drugs in addition to the biologically active Neurotoxin polypeptide which are added to the pharmaceutical composition during its formulation.

Moreover, the present invention pertains to the use of the polynucleotide or the polypeptide of the present invention for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of wound healing, immobilization for bone and tendon fracture treatment, post surgery immobilization, specifically in connection with haemorrhoidectomy, introduction of dental implants, or hip joint replacement (endoprosthesis), knee arthroplasty, ophthalmological surgery, acne, or irritable bowel disease.

The symptoms associated with the aforementioned medical conditions or diseases are well known to the person skilled in the art and are described in standard text books of medicine such as Stedman or Pschyrembl.

Moreover, the present invention also relates to the use of the polynucleotide or the polypeptide of the present invention for the preparation of a diagnostic medicament for determining whether a subject is susceptible for a Neurotoxin therapy.

The diagnostic medicament referred to above is a Neurotoxin polypeptide medicament as referred to above. However, the medicament is to be applied for a time and at a dosage regimen allowing merely the determination of whether a subject responds to the Neurotoxin polypeptide at all or the determination of a suitable dosage regimen. Since the above Neurotoxin polypeptide—although having therapeutic potential as well—is pivotally used for a diagnostic purpose rather than for treating or amelioration in this aspect, the medicament comprising it is termed “diagnostic medicament”. Thus, such a time-restricted pre-screen with the modified Neurotoxin polypeptides of the present invention will assist in selecting subjects susceptible for a therapy using an unmodified Neurotoxin as well as in determining a suitable dosage. Potential side effects of a therapy based on an unmodified Neurotoxin which would normally persist over a longer time can be reduced due to the reduced duration of the biological effect elicited by the modified Neurotoxin polypeptide of the invention.

The present invention encompasses a method for the manufacture of a Neurotoxin polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the invention comprising the steps of:

- a) cultivating the host cell of the invention under conditions which allow for the expression of the Neurotoxin polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the invention, and
- b) obtaining the Neurotoxin polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the invention from the host cell culture of a).

The polypeptide may be obtained from the culture, in an aspect, by all conventional purification techniques including affinity chromatography, size exclusion chromatography, high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) and precipitation techniques including antibody precipitation. Moreover, in an aspect the Neurotoxin polypeptide obtained by the method of the invention may be free of complexing proteins. In another aspect, the Neurotoxin polypeptide may be obtained as a complex comprising in addition to the Neuro-

toxin polypeptide complexing proteins. Moreover, obtaining as used herein, in an aspect, includes activation of the Neurotoxin polypeptide. This can be achieved by proteolytic cleavage of the (single-chain) Neurotoxin polypeptide precursor either intracellular by an endogenous or exogenous (e.g., recombinant expressed) protease or outside the cell by contacting the Neurotoxin polypeptide, e.g., prior, during or after the aforementioned purification, with the protease under conditions allowing for cleavage.

Furthermore, a method for the manufacture of a medicament is contemplated in accordance with the present invention, said method comprising the steps of the aforementioned method of the invention and the further step of formulating the Neurotoxin polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of the invention as a medicament.

It will be understood that such a method for the manufacture of a medicament is carried out according to the GMP standards for medicaments in order to ensure quality, pharmaceutical safety, and efficacy of the medicament. Suitable formulations of the medicament are described elsewhere in this specification. The person skilled in the art is, however, well aware of how such formulations can be made.

The invention also encompasses a method for the manufacture of a cosmetic composition comprising the steps of the method of the invention and the further step of formulating the Neurotoxin polypeptide as a cosmetic composition.

“Cosmetic composition” as used herein can be formulated as described for a pharmaceutical composition above. For a cosmetic composition, likewise, it is envisaged that the compound of the present invention is in an aspect used in substantially pure form. Impurities, however, may be less critical than for a medicament. Cosmetic compositions are, in a further aspect, to be applied intramuscular. In an even further aspect of the invention, cosmetic compositions comprising the Neurotoxin can be formulated as an anti-wrinkle agent.

The present invention also pertains to such a cosmetic composition and to the use of the polynucleotide or the polypeptide of the present invention for the preparation of a cosmetic composition to be used as an anti-wrinkle agent.

All references cited in this specification are herewith incorporated by reference with respect to their entire disclosure content and the disclosure content specifically mentioned in this specification.

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Gln	Ile	Gln	Leu	Phe	Asn	Leu	Glu	Ser	Ser	Lys	Ile	Glu	Val	Ile	Leu
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Phe	Trp	Ile	Arg	Ile	Pro	Lys	Tyr	Phe	Asn	Ser	Ile	Ser	Leu	Asn	Asn
945					950					955					960
Glu	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Ile	Asn	Cys	Met	Glu	Asn	Asn	Ser	Gly	Trp	Lys	Val
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Ser	Leu	Asn	Tyr	Gly	Glu	Ile	Ile	Trp	Thr	Leu	Gln	Asp	Thr	Gln	Glu
			980					985					990		
Ile	Lys	Gln	Arg	Val	Val	Phe	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Gln	Met	Ile	Asn	Ile	Ser
		995					1000					1005			
Asp	Tyr	Ile	Asn	Arg	Trp	Ile	Phe	Val	Thr	Ile	Thr	Asn	Asn	Arg	
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Ile Lys Tyr Phe Asn Leu Phe	Asp Lys Glu Leu Asn	Glu Lys Glu
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Ile Lys Asp Leu Tyr Asp Asn	Gln Ser Asn Ser Gly	Ile Leu Lys
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Asp Phe Trp Gly Asp Tyr Leu	Gln Tyr Asp Lys Pro	Tyr Tyr Met
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Leu Asn Leu Tyr Asp Pro Asn	Lys Tyr Val Asp Val	Asn Asn Val
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Lys Phe Ile Ile Lys Lys Tyr	Ala Ser Gly Asn Lys	Asp Asn Ile
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Val Arg Asn Asn Asp Arg Val	Tyr Ile Asn Val Val	Val Lys Asn
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Gln Val Val Val Met Lys Ser	Lys Asn Asp Gln Gly	Ile Thr Asn
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Lys Cys Lys Met Asn Leu Gln	Asp Asn Asn Gly Asn	Asp Ile Gly
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Phe Ile Gly Phe His Gln Phe	Asn Asn Ile Ala Lys	Leu Val Ala
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Ser Asn Trp Tyr Asn Arg Gln	Ile Glu Arg Ser Ser	Arg Thr Leu
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<213> ORGANISM: Clostridium botulinum

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tcaaaaccat tgggtgaaaa gttattagag atgattataa atgggtatacc ttatcttgga	360
gatagacgtg ttccactcga agagttaaac acaaacattg ctagtgtaac tgtaataaaa	420
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<212> TYPE: PRT	
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Tyr Tyr Lys Ala Phe Lys Ile Thr Asp Arg Ile Trp Ile Ile Pro Glu	
35 40 45	
Arg Tyr Thr Phe Gly Tyr Lys Pro Glu Asp Phe Asn Lys Ser Ser Gly	
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Ile Phe Asn Arg Asp Val Cys Glu Tyr Tyr Asp Pro Asp Tyr Leu Asn	
65 70 75 80	
Thr Asn Asp Lys Lys Asn Ile Phe Leu Gln Thr Met Ile Lys Leu Phe	
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100 105 110	
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115 120 125	
Phe Asn Thr Asn Ile Ala Ser Val Thr Val Asn Lys Leu Ile Ser Asn	
130 135 140	
Pro Gly Glu Val Glu Arg Lys Lys Gly Ile Phe Ala Asn Leu Ile Ile	
145 150 155 160	
Phe Gly Pro Gly Pro Val Leu Asn Glu Asn Glu Thr Ile Asp Ile Gly	
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Ile Gln Asn His Phe Ala Ser Arg Glu Gly Phe Gly Gly Ile Met Gln	
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Ala	Leu	Ile	Leu	Met	His	Glu	Leu	Ile	His	Val	Leu	His	Gly	Leu	Tyr	
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Gly	Ile	Lys	Val	Asp	Asp	Leu	Pro	Ile	Val	Pro	Asn	Glu	Lys	Lys	Phe	
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Gly	Gly	Gln	Asp	Pro	Ser	Ile	Ile	Thr	Pro	Ser	Thr	Asp	Lys	Ser	Ile	
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Tyr	Asp	Lys	Val	Leu	Gln	Asn	Phe	Arg	Gly	Ile	Val	Asp	Arg	Leu	Asn	
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Lys	Val	Leu	Val	Cys	Ile	Ser	Asp	Pro	Asn	Ile	Asn	Ile	Asn	Ile	Tyr	
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Lys	Asn	Lys	Phe	Lys	Asp	Lys	Tyr	Lys	Phe	Val	Glu	Asp	Ser	Glu	Gly	
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Lys	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Asp	Val	Glu	Ser	Phe	Asp	Lys	Leu	Tyr	Lys	Ser	Leu	
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Met	Phe	Gly	Phe	Thr	Glu	Thr	Asn	Ile	Ala	Glu	Asn	Tyr	Lys	Ile	Lys	
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Thr	Arg	Ala	Ser	Tyr	Phe	Ser	Asp	Ser	Leu	Pro	Pro	Val	Lys	Ile	Lys	
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Asn	Leu	Leu	Asp	Asn	Glu	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Glu	Glu	Gly	Phe	Asn	Ile	
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Ser	Asp	Lys	Asp	Met	Glu	Lys	Glu	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Gln	Asn	Lys	Ala	Ile	
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Asn	Lys	Gln	Ala	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Ile	Ser	Lys	Glu	His	Leu	Ala	Val	Tyr	
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Lys	Ile	Gln	Met	Cys	Lys	Ser	Val	Lys	Ala	Pro	Gly	Ile	Cys	Ile	Asp	
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Val	Asp	Asn	Glu	Asp	Leu	Phe	Phe	Ile	Ala	Asp	Lys	Asn	Ser	Phe	Ser	
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Asp	Asp	Leu	Ser	Lys	Asn	Glu	Arg	Ile	Glu	Tyr	Asn	Thr	Gln	Ser	Asn	
465					470					475					480	
Tyr	Ile	Glu	Asn	Asp	Phe	Pro	Ile	Asn	Glu	Leu	Ile	Leu	Asp	Thr	Asp	
			485						490					495		
Leu	Ile	Ser	Lys	Ile	Glu	Leu	Pro	Ser	Glu	Asn	Thr	Glu	Ser	Leu	Thr	
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Asp	Phe	Asn	Val	Asp	Val	Pro	Val	Tyr	Glu	Lys	Gln	Pro	Ala	Ile	Lys	
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Lys	Ile	Phe	Thr	Asp	Glu	Asn	Thr	Ile	Phe	Gln	Tyr	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Gln	
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Thr	Phe	Pro	Leu	Asp	Ile	Arg	Asp	Ile	Ser	Leu	Thr	Ser	Ser	Phe	Asp	
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Asp	Ala	Leu	Leu	Phe	Ser	Asn	Lys	Val	Tyr	Ser	Phe	Phe	Ser	Met	Asp	
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Tyr	Ile	Lys	Thr	Ala	Asn	Lys	Val	Val	Glu	Ala	Gly	Leu	Phe	Ala	Gly	
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Trp	Val	Lys	Gln	Ile	Val	Asn	Asp	Phe	Val	Ile	Glu	Ala	Asn	Lys	Ser	
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Glu	Leu	Leu	Ile	Pro	Val	Val	Gly	Ala	Phe	Leu	Leu	Glu	Ser	Tyr	Ile	
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Asp	Asn	Lys	Asn	Lys	Ile	Ile	Lys	Thr	Ile	Asp	Asn	Ala	Leu	Thr	Lys	
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Arg	Asn	Glu	Lys	Trp	Ser	Asp	Met	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Ile	Val	Ala	Gln	Trp	
	690					695					700					
Leu	Ser	Thr	Val	Asn	Thr	Gln	Phe	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Lys	Glu	Gly	Met	Tyr	
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Lys	Ala	Leu	Asn	Tyr	Gln	Ala	Gln	Ala	Leu	Glu	Glu	Ile	Ile	Lys	Tyr	
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Arg	Tyr	Asn	Ile	Tyr	Ser	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Ser	Asn	Ile	Asn	Ile	Asp	
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Phe	Asn	Asp	Ile	Asn	Ser	Lys	Leu	Asn	Glu	Gly	Ile	Asn	Gln	Ala	Ile	
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Asp	Asn	Ile	Asn	Asn	Phe	Ile	Asn	Gly	Cys	Ser	Val	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Met	
	770				775						780					
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785					790					795					800	
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Lys	Thr	Ile	Met	Pro	Phe	Asp	Leu	Ser	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Asn	Asp	Thr	Ile	
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Asn	Gln	Phe	Lys	Leu	Thr	Ser	Ser	Ala	Asn	Ser	Lys	Ile	Arg	Val	Thr	
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Ile Trp Met Lys Tyr Phe Ser Ile Phe Asn Thr Glu Leu Ser Gln		
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Ser Asn Ile Glu Glu Arg Tyr Lys Ile Gln Ser Tyr Ser Glu Tyr		
1070	1075	1080
Leu Lys Asp Phe Trp Gly Asn Pro Leu Met Tyr Asn Lys Glu Tyr		
1085	1090	1095
Tyr Met Phe Asn Ala Gly Asn Lys Asn Ser Tyr Ile Lys Leu Lys		
1100	1105	1110
Lys Asp Ser Pro Val Gly Glu Ile Leu Thr Arg Ser Lys Tyr Asn		
1115	1120	1125
Gln Asn Ser Lys Tyr Ile Asn Tyr Arg Asp Leu Tyr Ile Gly Glu		
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Lys Phe Ile Ile Arg Arg Lys Ser Asn Ser Gln Ser Ile Asn Asp		
1145	1150	1155
Asp Ile Val Arg Lys Glu Asp Tyr Ile Tyr Leu Asp Phe Phe Asn		
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Leu Asn Gln Glu Trp Arg Val Tyr Thr Tyr Lys Tyr Phe Lys Lys		
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Glu Glu Glu Lys Leu Phe Leu Ala Pro Ile Ser Asp Ser Asp Glu		
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Phe Tyr Asn Thr Ile Gln Ile Lys Glu Tyr Asp Glu Gln Pro Thr		
1205	1210	1215
Tyr Ser Cys Gln Leu Leu Phe Lys Lys Asp Glu Glu Ser Thr Asp		
1220	1225	1230
Glu Ile Gly Leu Ile Gly Ile His Arg Phe Tyr Glu Ser Gly Ile		
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Val Phe Glu Glu Tyr Lys Asp Tyr Phe Cys Ile Ser Lys Trp Tyr		
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Leu Lys Glu Val Lys Arg Lys Pro Tyr Asn Leu Lys Leu Gly Cys		
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<210> SEQ ID NO 5
<211> LENGTH: 3843
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Clostridium botulinum

<400> SEQUENCE: 5

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Pro Val Lys Ala Phe Met Ile Thr Gln Asn Ile Trp Val Ile Pro Glu						
35 40 45						
Arg Phe Ser Ser Asp Thr Asn Pro Ser Leu Ser Lys Pro Pro Arg Pro						
50 55 60						
Thr Ser Lys Tyr Gln Ser Tyr Tyr Asp Pro Ser Tyr Leu Ser Thr Asp						
65 70 75 80						
Glu Gln Lys Asp Thr Phe Leu Lys Gly Ile Ile Lys Leu Phe Lys Arg						
85 90 95						
Ile Asn Glu Arg Asp Ile Gly Lys Lys Leu Ile Asn Tyr Leu Val Val						
100 105 110						
Gly Ser Pro Phe Met Gly Asp Ser Ser Thr Pro Glu Asp Thr Phe Asp						
115 120 125						
Phe Thr Arg His Thr Thr Asn Ile Ala Val Glu Lys Phe Glu Asn Gly						
130 135 140						
Ser Trp Lys Val Thr Asn Ile Ile Thr Pro Ser Val Leu Ile Phe Gly						
145 150 155 160						
Pro Leu Pro Asn Ile Leu Asp Tyr Thr Ala Ser Leu Thr Leu Gln Gly						
165 170 175						
Gln Gln Ser Asn Pro Ser Phe Glu Gly Phe Gly Thr Leu Ser Ile Leu						
180 185 190						
Lys Val Ala Pro Glu Phe Leu Leu Thr Phe Ser Asp Val Thr Ser Asn						
195 200 205						
Gln Ser Ser Ala Val Leu Gly Lys Ser Ile Phe Cys Met Asp Pro Val						
210 215 220						

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Ile	Ala	Leu	Met	His	Glu	Leu	Thr	His	Ser	Leu	His	Gln	Leu	Tyr	Gly
225					230					235					240
Ile	Asn	Ile	Pro	Ser	Asp	Lys	Arg	Ile	Arg	Pro	Gln	Val	Ser	Glu	Gly
				245					250					255	
Phe	Phe	Ser	Gln	Asp	Gly	Pro	Asn	Val	Gln	Phe	Glu	Glu	Leu	Tyr	Thr
			260					265					270		
Phe	Gly	Gly	Ser	Asp	Val	Glu	Ile	Ile	Pro	Gln	Ile	Glu	Arg	Leu	Gln
	275						280					285			
Leu	Arg	Glu	Lys	Ala	Leu	Gly	His	Tyr	Lys	Asp	Ile	Ala	Lys	Arg	Leu
	290					295					300				
Asn	Asn	Ile	Asn	Lys	Thr	Ile	Pro	Ser	Ser	Trp	Ser	Ser	Asn	Ile	Asp
305					310					315					320
Lys	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Ile	Phe	Ser	Glu	Lys	Tyr	Asn	Phe	Asp	Lys	Asp	Asn
				325					330					335	
Thr	Gly	Asn	Phe	Val	Val	Asn	Ile	Asp	Lys	Phe	Asn	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Ser
			340					345					350		
Asp	Leu	Thr	Asn	Val	Met	Ser	Glu	Val	Val	Tyr	Ser	Ser	Gln	Tyr	Asn
	355						360					365			
Val	Lys	Asn	Arg	Thr	His	Tyr	Phe	Ser	Lys	His	Tyr	Leu	Pro	Val	Phe
	370					375					380				
Ala	Asn	Ile	Leu	Asp	Asp	Asn	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Ile	Asn	Gly	Phe	Asn
385					390					395					400
Leu	Thr	Thr	Lys	Gly	Phe	Asn	Ile	Glu	Asn	Ser	Gly	Gln	Asn	Ile	Glu
				405					410					415	
Arg	Asn	Pro	Ala	Leu	Gln	Lys	Leu	Ser	Ser	Glu	Ser	Val	Val	Asp	Leu
			420					425					430		
Phe	Thr	Lys	Val	Cys	Leu	Arg	Leu	Thr	Arg	Asn	Ser	Arg	Asp	Asp	Ser
		435					440					445			
Thr	Cys	Ile	Gln	Val	Lys	Asn	Asn	Thr	Leu	Pro	Tyr	Val	Ala	Asp	Lys
	450					455					460				
Asp	Ser	Ile	Ser	Gln	Glu	Ile	Phe	Glu	Ser	Gln	Ile	Ile	Thr	Asp	Glu
465					470					475					480
Thr	Asn	Val	Glu	Asn	Tyr	Ser	Asp	Asn	Phe	Ser	Leu	Asp	Glu	Ser	Ile
			485						490				495		
Leu	Asp	Ala	Lys	Val	Pro	Thr	Asn	Pro	Glu	Ala	Val	Asp	Pro	Leu	Leu
			500					505					510		
Pro	Asn	Val	Asn	Met	Glu	Pro	Leu	Asn	Val	Pro	Gly	Glu	Glu	Glu	Val
		515					520					525			
Phe	Tyr	Asp	Asp	Ile	Thr	Lys	Asp	Val	Asp	Tyr	Leu	Asn	Ser	Tyr	Tyr
	530					535					540				
Tyr	Leu	Glu	Ala	Gln	Lys	Leu	Ser	Asn	Asn	Val	Glu	Asn	Ile	Thr	Leu
545					550					555					560
Thr	Thr	Ser	Val	Glu	Glu	Ala	Leu	Gly	Tyr	Ser	Asn	Lys	Ile	Tyr	Thr
				565					570					575	
Phe	Leu	Pro	Ser	Leu	Ala	Glu	Lys	Val	Asn	Lys	Gly	Val	Gln	Ala	Gly
			580					585					590		
Leu	Phe	Leu	Asn	Trp	Ala	Asn	Glu	Val	Val	Glu	Asp	Phe	Thr	Thr	Asn
		595					600					605			
Ile	Met	Lys	Lys	Asp	Thr	Leu	Asp	Lys	Ile	Ser	Asp	Val	Ser	Ala	Ile
	610					615					620				
Ile	Pro	Tyr	Ile	Gly	Pro	Ala	Leu	Asn	Ile	Gly	Asn	Ser	Ala	Leu	Arg
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Gly	Asn	Phe	Lys	Gln	Ala	Phe	Ala	Thr	Ala	Gly	Val	Ala	Phe	Leu	Leu
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Glu	Gly	Phe	Pro	Glu	Phe	Thr	Ile	Pro	Ala	Leu	Gly	Val	Phe	Thr	Phe
			660					665					670		
Tyr	Ser	Ser	Ile	Gln	Glu	Arg	Glu	Lys	Ile	Ile	Lys	Thr	Ile	Glu	Asn
		675					680					685			
Cys	Leu	Glu	Gln	Arg	Val	Lys	Arg	Trp	Lys	Asp	Ser	Tyr	Gln	Trp	Met
	690					695					700				
Val	Ser	Asn	Trp	Leu	Ser	Arg	Ile	Thr	Thr	Arg	Phe	Asn	His	Ile	Ser
705					710					715					720
Tyr	Gln	Met	Tyr	Asp	Ser	Leu	Ser	Tyr	Gln	Ala	Asp	Ala	Ile	Lys	Ala
				725					730					735	
Lys	Ile	Asp	Leu	Glu	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Gly	Ser	Asp	Lys	Glu	Asn
			740					745					750		
Ile	Lys	Ser	Gln	Val	Glu	Asn	Leu	Lys	Asn	Ser	Leu	Asp	Val	Lys	Ile
		755					760					765			
Ser	Glu	Ala	Met	Asn	Asn	Ile	Asn	Lys	Phe	Ile	Arg	Glu	Cys	Ser	Val
	770					775					780				
Thr	Tyr	Leu	Phe	Lys	Asn	Met	Leu	Pro	Lys	Val	Ile	Asp	Glu	Leu	Asn
785					790					795					800
Lys	Phe	Asp	Leu	Lys	Thr	Lys	Thr	Glu	Leu	Ile	Asn	Leu	Ile	Asp	Ser
				805					810					815	
His	Asn	Ile	Ile	Leu	Val	Gly	Glu	Val	Asp	Arg	Leu	Lys	Ala	Lys	Val
			820					825					830		
Asn	Glu	Ser	Phe	Glu	Asn	Thr	Ile	Pro	Phe	Asn	Ile	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Thr
		835					840					845			
Asn	Asn	Ser	Leu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Met	Ile	Asn	Glu	Tyr	Phe	Asn	Ser	Ile
	850					855					860				
Asn	Asp	Ser	Lys	Ile	Leu	Ser	Leu	Gln	Asn	Lys	Lys	Asn	Thr	Leu	Met
865					870					875					880
Asp	Thr	Ser	Gly	Tyr	Asn	Ala	Glu	Val	Arg	Val	Glu	Gly	Asn	Val	Gln
			885						890					895	
Leu	Asn	Pro	Ile	Phe	Pro	Phe	Asp	Phe	Lys	Leu	Gly	Ser	Ser	Gly	Asp
			900					905					910		
Asp	Arg	Gly	Lys	Val	Ile	Val	Thr	Gln	Asn	Glu	Asn	Ile	Val	Tyr	Asn
		915					920					925			
Ala	Met	Tyr	Glu	Ser	Phe	Ser	Ile	Ser	Phe	Trp	Ile	Arg	Ile	Asn	Lys
	930					935					940				
Trp	Val	Ser	Asn	Leu	Pro	Gly	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Ile	Asp	Ser	Val	Lys	Asn
945					950					955					960
Asn	Ser	Gly	Trp	Ser	Ile	Gly	Ile	Ile	Ser	Asn	Phe	Leu	Val	Phe	Thr
			965						970					975	
Leu	Lys	Gln	Asn	Glu	Asn	Ser	Glu	Gln	Asp	Ile	Asn	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Asp
			980					985					990		
Ile	Ser	Lys	Asn	Ala	Ala	Gly	Tyr	Asn	Lys	Trp	Phe	Phe	Val	Thr	Ile
		995					1000					1005			
Thr	Thr	Asn	Met	Met	Gly	Asn	Met	Met	Ile	Tyr	Ile	Asn	Gly	Lys	
	1010					1015						1020			
Leu	Ile	Asp	Thr	Ile	Lys	Val	Lys	Glu	Leu	Thr	Gly	Ile	Asn	Phe	
	1025					1030					1035				
Ser	Lys	Thr	Ile	Thr	Phe	Gln	Met	Asn	Lys	Ile	Pro	Asn	Thr	Gly	
	1040					1045					1050				
Leu	Ile	Thr	Ser	Asp	Ser	Asp	Asn	Ile	Asn	Met	Trp	Ile	Arg	Asp	

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1055	1060	1065
Phe Tyr Ile Phe Ala Lys Glu Leu Asp Asp Lys Asp Ile Asn Ile		
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Leu Phe Asn Ser Leu Gln Tyr Thr Asn Val Val Lys Asp Tyr Trp		
1085	1090	1095
Gly Asn Asp Leu Arg Tyr Asp Lys Glu Tyr Tyr Met Ile Asn Val		
1100	1105	1110
Asn Tyr Met Asn Arg Tyr Met Ser Lys Lys Gly Asn Gly Ile Val		
1115	1120	1125
Phe Asn Thr Arg Lys Asn Asn Asn Asp Phe Asn Glu Gly Tyr Lys		
1130	1135	1140
Ile Ile Ile Lys Arg Ile Arg Gly Asn Thr Asn Asp Thr Arg Val		
1145	1150	1155
Arg Gly Glu Asn Val Leu Tyr Phe Asn Thr Thr Ile Asp Asn Lys		
1160	1165	1170
Gln Tyr Ser Leu Gly Met Tyr Lys Pro Ser Arg Asn Leu Gly Thr		
1175	1180	1185
Asp Leu Val Pro Leu Gly Ala Leu Asp Gln Pro Met Asp Glu Ile		
1190	1195	1200
Arg Lys Tyr Gly Ser Phe Ile Ile Gln Pro Cys Asn Thr Phe Asp		
1205	1210	1215
Tyr Tyr Ala Ser Gln Leu Phe Leu Ser Ser Asn Ala Thr Thr Asn		
1220	1225	1230
Arg Leu Gly Ile Leu Ser Ile Gly Ser Tyr Ser Phe Lys Leu Gly		
1235	1240	1245
Asp Asp Tyr Trp Phe Asn His Glu Tyr Leu Ile Pro Val Ile Lys		
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Ile Glu His Tyr Ala Ser Leu Leu Glu Ser Thr Ser Thr His Trp		
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Val Phe Val Pro Ala Ser Glu		
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<211> LENGTH: 3756
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Clostridium botulinum

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ataattocag agagaaatgt aattggtaca acccccgaag attttcatcc gcctacttca	180
ttaaaaaatg gagatagtag ttattatgac cctaattatt tacaaagtga tgaagaaaag	240
gatagatttt taaaaatagt cacaaaaata tttaatagaa taaataataa tctttcagga	300
gggattttat tagaagaact gtcaaaagct aatccatatt tagggaatga taatactcca	360
gataatcaat tccatattgg tgatgcatca gcagttgaga ttaaattctc aaatggtagc	420
caagacatac tattacctaa tgttattata atgggagcag agcctgattt atttgaaact	480
aacagttcca atatttctct aagaaataat tatatgccaa gcaatcaccg ttttggatca	540
atagctatag taacattctc acctgaatat tcttttagat ttaatgataa ttgtatgaat	600
gaatttattc aagatcctgc tcttacatta atgcatgaat taatacttc attacatgga	660
ctatatgggg ctaaagggat tactacaaag tatactataa cacaaaaaca aaatccccta	720

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aaaatagcgt	ctaaacttag	caaagtacaa	gtatctaata	cactacttaa	tccttataaa	900
gatgtttttg	aagcaaagta	tggattagat	aaagatgcta	gcggaattta	ttcggtaaat	960
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actaaatttc	aagttaaatg	taggcaaact	tatattggac	agtataaata	cttcaaactt	1080
tcaaacttgt	taaatgattc	tatttataat	atatcagaag	gctataatat	aaataattta	1140
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aataatgtca	ataaacctgt	gcaagcagca	ttatttgtaa	gctggataca	acaagtgtta	1740
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aataaagtta	ttaaagcaat	aaataatgca	ttgaaagaaa	gagatgaaaa	atggaaagaa	2040
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aaagaacaaa	tgtatcaagc	tttacaaaat	caagtaaatg	caattaaaac	aataatagaa	2160
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ggagattcta	aactttatat	taatggaaat	ttaatagatc	aaaaatcaat	tttaaattta	3060
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ctttatgaca aagaatacta tttattaaat gtgttaaaac caaataactt tattgatagg	3300
agaaaagatt ctactttaag cattaataat ataagaagca ctattctttt agctaataga	3360
ttatatagtg gaataaaagt taaaatacaa agagttaata atagtagtac taacgataat	3420
cttggttagaa agaatgatca ggtatatatt aattttgtag ccagcaaaac tcacttattt	3480
ccattatatg ctgatacagc taccacaaat aaagagaaaa caataaaaaat atcatcatct	3540
ggcaatagat ttaatcaagt agtagttatg aattcagtag gaaattgtac aatgaatttt	3600
aaaaataata atggaaataa tattggggttg ttaggtttca aggcagatac tgtcgttgct	3660
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20 25 30	
Phe Asn Ile Met Lys Asn Ile Trp Ile Ile Pro Glu Arg Asn Val Ile	
35 40 45	
Gly Thr Thr Pro Gln Asp Phe His Pro Pro Thr Ser Leu Lys Asn Gly	
50 55 60	
Asp Ser Ser Tyr Tyr Asp Pro Asn Tyr Leu Gln Ser Asp Glu Glu Lys	
65 70 75 80	
Asp Arg Phe Leu Lys Ile Val Thr Lys Ile Phe Asn Arg Ile Asn Asn	
85 90 95	
Asn Leu Ser Gly Gly Ile Leu Leu Glu Glu Leu Ser Lys Ala Asn Pro	
100 105 110	
Tyr Leu Gly Asn Asp Asn Thr Pro Asp Asn Gln Phe His Ile Gly Asp	
115 120 125	
Ala Ser Ala Val Glu Ile Lys Phe Ser Asn Gly Ser Gln Asp Ile Leu	
130 135 140	
Leu Pro Asn Val Ile Ile Met Gly Ala Glu Pro Asp Leu Phe Glu Thr	
145 150 155 160	
Asn Ser Ser Asn Ile Ser Leu Arg Asn Asn Tyr Met Pro Ser Asn His	
165 170 175	
Arg Phe Gly Ser Ile Ala Ile Val Thr Phe Ser Pro Glu Tyr Ser Phe	
180 185 190	
Arg Phe Asn Asp Asn Cys Met Asn Glu Phe Ile Gln Asp Pro Ala Leu	
195 200 205	
Thr Leu Met His Glu Leu Ile His Ser Leu His Gly Leu Tyr Gly Ala	
210 215 220	
Lys Gly Ile Thr Thr Lys Tyr Thr Ile Thr Gln Lys Gln Asn Pro Leu	
225 230 235 240	
Ile Thr Asn Ile Arg Gly Thr Asn Ile Glu Glu Phe Leu Thr Phe Gly	
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Thr	Asn	Leu	Leu	Ala	Asp	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Ile	Ala	Ser	Lys	Leu	Ser	Lys	
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Val	Gln	Val	Ser	Asn	Pro	Leu	Leu	Asn	Pro	Tyr	Lys	Asp	Val	Phe	Glu	
	290					295					300					
Ala	Lys	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Asp	Lys	Asp	Ala	Ser	Gly	Ile	Tyr	Ser	Val	Asn	
305					310					315					320	
Ile	Asn	Lys	Phe	Asn	Asp	Ile	Phe	Lys	Lys	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Phe	Thr	Glu	
				325					330					335		
Phe	Asp	Leu	Arg	Thr	Lys	Phe	Gln	Val	Lys	Cys	Arg	Gln	Thr	Tyr	Ile	
			340					345					350			
Gly	Gln	Tyr	Lys	Tyr	Phe	Lys	Leu	Ser	Asn	Leu	Leu	Asn	Asp	Ser	Ile	
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Tyr	Asn	Ile	Ser	Glu	Gly	Tyr	Asn	Ile	Asn	Asn	Leu	Lys	Val	Asn	Phe	
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Arg	Gly	Gln	Asn	Ala	Asn	Leu	Asn	Pro	Arg	Ile	Ile	Thr	Pro	Ile	Thr	
385					390					395					400	
Gly	Arg	Gly	Leu	Val	Lys	Lys	Ile	Ile	Arg	Phe	Cys	Lys	Asn	Ile	Val	
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Ser	Val	Lys	Gly	Ile	Arg	Lys	Ser	Ile	Cys	Ile	Glu	Ile	Asn	Asn	Gly	
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Glu	Leu	Phe	Phe	Val	Ala	Ser	Glu	Asn	Ser	Tyr	Asn	Asp	Asp	Asn	Ile	
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Asn	Thr	Pro	Lys	Glu	Ile	Asp	Asp	Thr	Val	Thr	Ser	Asn	Asn	Asn	Tyr	
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Glu	Asn	Asp	Leu	Asp	Gln	Val	Ile	Leu	Asn	Phe	Asn	Ser	Glu	Ser	Ala	
465					470					475					480	
Pro	Gly	Leu	Ser	Asp	Glu	Lys	Leu	Asn	Leu	Thr	Ile	Gln	Asn	Asp	Ala	
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Tyr	Ile	Pro	Lys	Tyr	Asp	Ser	Asn	Gly	Thr	Ser	Asp	Ile	Glu	Gln	His	
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Asp	Val	Asn	Glu	Leu	Asn	Val	Phe	Phe	Tyr	Leu	Asp	Ala	Gln	Lys	Val	
		515					520					525				
Pro	Glu	Gly	Glu	Asn	Asn	Val	Asn	Leu	Thr	Ser	Ser	Ile	Asp	Thr	Ala	
	530					535					540					
Leu	Leu	Glu	Gln	Pro	Lys	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Phe	Phe	Ser	Ser	Glu	Phe	Ile	
545					550					555					560	
Asn	Asn	Val	Asn	Lys	Pro	Val	Gln	Ala	Ala	Leu	Phe	Val	Ser	Trp	Ile	
				565					570					575		
Gln	Gln	Val	Leu	Val	Asp	Phe	Thr	Thr	Glu	Ala	Asn	Gln	Lys	Ser	Thr	
		580						585					590			
Val	Asp	Lys	Ile	Ala	Asp	Ile	Ser	Ile	Val	Val	Pro	Tyr	Ile	Gly	Leu	
		595					600					605				
Ala	Leu	Asn	Ile	Gly	Asn	Glu	Ala	Gln	Lys	Gly	Asn	Phe	Lys	Asp	Ala	
	610					615					620					
Leu	Glu	Leu	Leu	Gly	Ala	Gly	Ile	Leu	Leu	Glu	Phe	Glu	Pro	Glu	Leu	
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Xaa can be any naturally occurring amino acid

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Pro Pro Xaa Tyr Xaa
1 5

The invention claimed is:

1. A modified neurotoxin polypeptide exhibiting a reduced duration of muscle paralysis in a subject, wherein the neuro- 30 toxin polypeptide comprises at least one degradation signal in a light chain of the neurotoxin polypeptide, wherein the degradation signal in the light chain of the neurotoxin polypeptide is selected from:

a) at least one internally or terminally introduced PEST 35 motif;
b) at least one internally or terminally introduced E3 ligase recognition motif;
c) an N-terminal oligo-lysine residue;
d) an N-terminally linked ubiquitin; 40
e) a substitution of the N-terminal praline with a basic amino acid;
f) substitutions of surface displayed amino acid residues with lysine; and
g) a substitution of the N-terminal praline with a basic amino add in combination with substitutions of surface displayed amino add residues with lysine.

2. The modified neurotoxin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the duration of the muscle paralysis in a subject persists less than 4, 3 or 2 weeks.

3. The modified neurotoxin polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the light chain of the neurotoxin polypeptide exhibiting a reduced duration of muscle paralysis in a subject is a modified form of a neurotoxin light chain having an amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO; 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 9,193,771 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 14/056247
DATED : November 24, 2015
INVENTOR(S) : Fred Hofmann et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title Page, Other Publications: "WO2006/007185 1/2006"
should be
--WO2005/007185 1/2005--.

Title Page, Line 3, Other Publications: "Microbiology. vol. 162"
should be
--Microbiology, vol. 152--.

Title Page, Lines 18-19, Other Publications: "International Search Report for PCT/EP2010/05938"
should be
--International Search Report for PCT/EP2010/059398--.

Title Page, Line 23, Other Publications: "Eur. J. Biochem., vol.188 p. 399-45"
should be
--Eur. J. Biochem., vol.188 p. 339-45--.

Title Page, Line 29, Other Publications: "Science, vol. 234, p. 364-366"
should be
--Science, vol. 234, p. 364-368--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Column 100, Line 30: "praline" should be --proline--.

Column 100, Line 32: "add" should be --acid--.

Signed and Sealed this
Fifth Day of January, 2016



Michelle K. Lee
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 9,193,771 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 14/056247
DATED : November 24, 2015
INVENTOR(S) : Hofmann et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In the Claims

Column 99, Line 41 Claim 1: “praline” should read --proline--.

Signed and Sealed this
Second Day of January, 2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Matal". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Joseph Matal
*Performing the Functions and Duties of the
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*